



# Michigan Dietetic Association

The early history of Michigan Dietetic Association is richly intertwined with the beginning years of the American Dietetic Association. Among the 38 charter members of the American Dietetic Association were seven Michigan dietitians including Lenna Frances Cooper, the first Michigan Dietetic Association president 1929-1930 and fourteenth American Dietetic Association president 1937-1938. During ADA's first four decades, seven Michigan dietitians served as ADA presidents.

A legacy of service and advocacy was established by these pioneering dietitians and has continued through the years as Michigan nutrition professionals have served the public through nutrition awareness campaigns and legislative activity for public health issues.

Michigan remains on the forefront of the dietetics profession through our highly respected university and internship programs. Hundreds of registered dietitians throughout the U. S. and many foreign countries have received degrees or completed internships at our longstanding programs.

MDA demonstrates the ideals of early founders by being risk takers and innovators. We "never say never" and pursue licensure for nutrition professionals in a state with a challenging political climate. We position our organization members as the experts in nutrition by holding the first MDA community forum in conjunction with our 75th anniversary meeting. We adapt to changing times and technology and have created an efficient governing structure to function effectively in the fast paced world of the 21st century.

## Yesterday - Today - Tomorrow

The early years of MDA were devoted to establishing a strong foundation for the dietetics profession in Michigan. Today, MDA continues to build on this foundation through dedication, advocacy and innovation. Tomorrow the possibilities are infinite - far beyond anything those pioneering dietitians, our founders could have envisioned 75 years ago.



## 75 Years of Communicating Health Awareness

- 1929 First MDA Meeting at Post Tavern, Battle Creek, hosted by the 1st MDA President Lenna Frances Cooper. Constitution developed.
- 1931 MDA affiliated with ADA on April 2.
- 1942 25th Annual ADA Meeting at the Hotel Statler, Detroit. "The Dietitian and the War" was the topic of the presidential address.
- 1952 The first MDA scholarship of \$120.00 was awarded.
- 1969 ADA adopted registration. Nine districts for MDA.
- 1980 Michigan Dietetic Association Education and Research Institute formed. Lobbyist hired to facilitate licensure.
- 1981 First Executive Secretary. New bylaws established.
- 1988 Eight dietetic practice groups existed in Michigan.
- 1994-1996 Program year changed to June. Licensure team established.
- 1998 Licensure bill vetoed by Governor after winning majority votes of support in both House and Senate.
- 2000 MDA website established.
- 2001-2002 New governance structure introduced. Internet and conference call technology used to conduct business.
- 2004 75th Anniversary Reception held in Troy, Michigan. MDA members number over 2000. First public forum "Michigan Healthy Habits For Healthy Kids."

